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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 COLOMBO 001493

SIPDIS

NOFORN

DEPARTMENT FOR SA, SA/INS, S/CT; NSC FOR E. MILLARD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08-26-13

TAGS: PREL PTER PINS PGOV KISL MV

SUBJECT: Maldivian police review visit to detainee at
Guantanamo Bay in meeting with the Charge'

Ref: Colombo 1481, and previous (Notal)

(U) Classified by James F. Entwistle, Charge'
d'Affaires. Reasons 1.5 (b,d).

¶1. (S/NF) SUMMARY: In an August 26 meeting with 'Charge', two Maldivian police officials reviewed their recent visit to Guantanamo Bay to interview a Maldivian national detained there. The officials said they did not/not believe the detainee was connected with terrorism, but noted that there were some loose ends that still needed to be tracked down. Pending the final results of their investigation, they said the GoRM would consider next steps. The GoRM is very appreciative of the access they have had to the detainee. END SUMMARY.

¶2. (S/NF) VISIT TO GUANTANAMO: In an August 26 meeting with the 'Charge', two Maldivian police officials, Major Ibrahim Latheef, Assistant Commissioner of Police, and Lt. Ahmed Faseeh, reviewed their August 21 visit to Guantanamo Bay. DATT, polchief, and poloff joined in the meeting. In the Guantanamo detention center, the police officials, who were accompanied on the trip by DATT, interviewed Ibrahim Fouzy, a Maldivian national detained at the facility.

¶3. (S/NF) INTERVIEW WITH DETAINEE: Based on their interview with the detainee and other information, the Maldivian police officials said their tentative conclusion was that Fouzy did not/not have links to terrorism. They indicated that Fouzy seemed to have been caught in the wrong place at the wrong time when he was detained by Pakistani authorities while studying in Pakistan. Based on information which has been corroborated, Fouzy said he was residing briefly in an apartment whose owner apparently had a tertiary connection to an individual who had connections to Al-Qaida/Taliban elements. After being detained by the GoP, he was rendered to U.S. authorities who brought him to Bagram airbase in Afghanistan and then to Guantanamo. Fouzy told the police officials that he did not subscribe to Islamic extremist thinking and he expressed sadness about the September 11, 2001, attacks. Re domestic Maldivian politics, Fouzy indicated that he was not/not a supporter of President Gayoom.

¶4. (S/NF) SOME QUESTIONS REMAIN: The Maldivian police told the 'Charge' that they still have a few outstanding questions regarding Fouzy's account of events, especially related to his travel from the Maldives to Pakistan via Kenya in early 2000. Fouzy transited through Kenya, staying there approximately 10-12 days while waiting to obtain a Pakistani government No Objection Certificate (NOC). Fouzy claimed that he traveled to Kenya to get the NOC, as he was unable to get one in Sri Lanka, although his Maldivian traveling companions were able to receive the necessary travel documents in Sri Lanka. (Note: The Pakistani High Commission in Male apparently does not issue the requisite NOC's.) In addition to the question re the NOC, Maldivian police said they also wanted to know from where Fouzy obtained the funds for his air ticket to Kenya, which was 1,200 USD. The Maldivian officials said they were somewhat puzzled by this string of events and the fact that Fouzy claimed not to remember his activities during his time in Kenya.

¶5. (S/NF) NEXT STEPS: Major Latheef, who did most of the talking for the Maldivian team, told the 'Charge' that he intended to report the results of the visit to his government and then complete the investigation into the remaining issues. The GoRM would then finish evaluating the case and would, at that time, possibly consider a formal request to the U.S. for Fouzy's return. Responding to 'Charge's question about possible criminal charges, the Maldivians told us Fouzy would not likely face any charges should he be returned to the Maldives. They said the government would carefully monitor his activities if he was sent back to the Maldives, however.

16. (S/NF) COMMENT: The Maldivian government has been a strong supporter of the international campaign against terrorism and seems to be approaching this matter with the utmost seriousness. In his 25 years in power, President Gayoom's regime has been no friend of extremism, locking up a number of Maldivians who it felt strayed too far from the GoRM-imposed moderate Islamic orthodoxy. The Maldivian police team expressed their deep appreciation to the U.S. for allowing access to Fouwzy, noting that the detainee said he had been very well treated by the U.S. authorities. They also relayed the gratitude of Abdul Sattar Anbaree, Minister of State for Defense and National Security, and Dr. Ahmed Shaheed, Permanent Secretary of the MFA. END COMMENT.

17. (U) Minimize considered.

ENTWISTLE